



Whispering Bell

# Libya Daily Report



Strictly Confidential & Exclusive for ConocoPhillips Libya



# KEY DEVELOPMENTS

**15 May 2023**

## Tripoli

- Ghut Shaal/Al-Serraj: Zintan deployment & weapon testing
- Tripoli: Power cuts
- PM Office: Dbeibah receives Bathily
- HNEC: Al-Sayeh receives Russian delegation
- Tripoli: Saudi Embassy reopening discussions
- Tripoli: Al-Wadi Rd. closure

## Nationwide / General

- Al-Zawiya: Fragile ceasefire
- HCS: GNU violations
- Unconfirmed: HoR to dismiss Bashagha

## Oil & Gas Update

- Mellitah well activated

## CONTENTS

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TRIPOLI</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NATIONWIDE / GENERAL</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>OIL &amp; GAS UPDATE</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>VERACITY SCALE</b>	<b>7</b>

# SUMMARY

## Key Points

- 6+6 committee pursue election law discussion
- US renews pressure to hold elections in 2023
- Oil output stable but LNA blockade possible

## Political

*The absence of a solution to the political deadlock and continuing legitimacy crisis over the GNU's mandate continue to define the context of heightened political uncertainty. In the current context, there are two political initiatives at odds with one another. The pro Al-Meshri bloc within the High Council of State (HCS) recently voted in favour of the House of Representatives' (HoR) 13<sup>TH</sup> constitutional amendment, while key international actors have announced support for the political initiative proposed by UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily.*

*Intense political manoeuvring will likely define the next few weeks against the backdrop of Bathily's proposed formation of a High-level Steering Panel for Libya. Key contentious issues such as the eligibility of dual nationals and military officials to run for president will continue to divide Libyan stakeholders and undermine progress towards a solution to the stalemate.*

*The UN SRSG's proposal is already facing resistance from key domestic actors such as the HoR. Consequently, Whispering Bell assesses actors opposed to the UN-led initiative will double down on their campaigns to form a new unified government as a hedge against the UN push to establish a new dialogue forum. In turn, renewed efforts to form a new government will mount the pressure on the GNU and PM Abdul Hamid Dbeibah. Amid US pressure to hold elections, Dbeibah may be compelled to reshuffle his cabinet and/or organise limited legislative elections. Of note, Dbeibah announced the formation of a government committee to implement and coordinate elections on 09 March, while Bathily provided further details on his proposal to form a High-Level Steering Panel for Libya in a press briefing on 11 March.*

## Security

*Tripoli is operational and continues to present a relatively permissive operational environment. Sporadic incidents will continue to define security atmospherics in the western region. From a security standpoint, the status quo and stable atmospherics are set to remain as is in Tripoli. Low-impact and localised flashpoints outside government offices are possible but are unlikely to escalate or impact business operations. Targeted attacks against HoR MPs, HCS members, and other political figures are likely as political tensions peak over the next few weeks. Beyond Tripoli, protesters in Al-Zawiya reopened roads and government buildings following civil disobedience sparked by a deteriorating security environment. The temporary stop to the protests came in response to a security plan drafted by GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohammed Al-Haddad.*

## Oil & Gas

*Disruptions to production are likely despite evidence the LNA is yet to support a coordinated oil blockade. In his latest visit to Libya, US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Burns allegedly reiterated to Haftar the importance of safeguarding oil and gas facilities and production.*



# TRIPOLI

- **Report n°6342:** Ghut Shaal/Al-Serraj: Zintan deployment & weapon testing

WB sources reported several technicals affiliated with the Zintan General Security Apparatus were stationed near Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq Mosque at approximately 2330hrs on 14 May.

At approximately 2100hrs, sources reported brief heavy gunfire in Tripoli's Ghut Al-Shaal area as a result of Zintan armed forces testing weapons from their Tobacco Factory.

Further, at approximately 1900hrs, sources reported brief gunfire heard in Al-Serraj due to the Zintan General Security Apparatus testing weapons near the World Islamic Call Society.

**Analysis/Comment:** No further information.

**Location:** Al-Jebs; Edraiby  
**Incident Date:** 14 May  
**Timestamp:** 1900hrs; 2100hrs; 2330hrs  
**Source:** WB  
**Veracity:** A  
**Actors:** Zintan General Security Apparatus  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 Identify the motives behind gunfire heard across the capital.

- **Report n°6343:** Tripoli: Power cuts

WB sources reported several areas in Tripoli including Ain Zara, Al-Hadba, and Bab Ben Ghashir witnessed power cuts ranging from 4-6hrs on 14 May. Of note, General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) Chairman Mohamed Al-Meshai supervised maintenance work at the 22/30 substation in Al-Hadba in the morning on 15 May after a fire broke out at the substation 48hrs prior. The Attorney General launched an investigation into the incident after GECOL stressed that there is a strong possibility the fire was deliberate.

**Analysis/Comment:** No further information.

**Location:** Ain Zara; Al-Hadba; Bab Ben Ghashir  
**Incident Date:** 14 May  
**Timestamp:** N/A  
**Source:** WB  
**Veracity:** A  
**Actors:** N/A  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 Continue to monitor the power cuts across the capital.

- **Report n°6344:** PM Office: Dbeibah receives Bathily

GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah received UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily and discussed the latest developments with regard to efforts to hold elections on 14 May. The two sides agreed on the importance of the timely completion of the constitutional and legal framework for elections, as well as involving all segments of society in the electoral process.

**Location:** PM Office  
**Incident Date:** 14 May  
**Timestamp:** Unknown  
**Source:** Social Media  
**Veracity:** B  
**Actors:** GNU' UN  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 General continue to monitor details surrounding high-profile meetings held across the capital.

**Analysis/Comment:** No further information.

---

▪ **Report n°6345:** HNEC: Al-Sayeh receives Russian delegation

High National Election Commission (HNEC) Head Emad Al-Sayeh received a delegation from the Russian Embassy in Tripoli on 14 May. HNEC stated that the visit marked the first of its kind for the Russian delegation and comes within the framework of reviewing HNEC's readiness to implement the electoral process in 2023, limited to the implementation of the electoral laws referred to it by the House of Representatives (HoR). The Russian delegation expressed its readiness to support the electoral process in Libya and agreed to continue cooperating with HNEC to ensure elections are a success.

**Analysis/Comment:** No further information.

---

**Location:** HNEC 's HQ  
**Incident Date:** 14 May  
**Timestamp:** Unknown  
**Source:** Social Media  
**Veracity:** B  
**Actors:** HNEC; Russian delegation  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
General continue to monitor details surrounding high-profile meetings held across the capital.

▪ **Report n°6346:** Tripoli: Saudi Embassy reopening discussions

The GNU Foreign Affairs Ministry reported a Saudi delegation conducted an official visit to Tripoli to discuss the necessary arrangement to reopen the Saudi Embassy in Tripoli on 14 May. The Saudi Embassy in Tripoli was among the diplomatic missions that ceased operations in 2014 due to a deteriorating security environment.

**Analysis/Comment:** No further information.

---

**Location:** Tripoli  
**Incident Date:** 14 May  
**Timestamp:** Unknown  
**Source:** Social Media  
**Veracity:** B  
**Actors:** GNU; Saudi delegation  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
General continue to monitor details surrounding high-profile meetings held across the capital.

- **Report n°6347:** Tripoli: Al-Wadi Rd. closure

WB sources reported one of the lanes on Al-Wadi Road, linking Tuesday Mall Roundabout with Al-Nakheel Roundabout, was closed for roadworks in the morning on 14 May. Motorists can use the alternative lane.

**Analysis/Comment:** No further information.

**Location:** Al-Wadi Road  
**Incident Date:** 14 May  
**Timestamp:** Morning  
**Source:** WB  
**Veracity:** A  
**Actors:** General Services Company  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 Continue to monitor the motive behind roads closure.

## NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Al-Zawiya: Fragile ceasefire**

A spokesman for the military force charged with resolving the latest round of clashes in Al-Zawiya, Akram Dawa, stated that the force mobilised in the engagement areas and was successful in brokering a ceasefire with the intervention of elders and sheikhs of the city on 14 May. Of note, the latest casualty toll for the last round of fighting in Al-Zawiya includes the death of two civilians and one militiaman, as well as the injuries of two other civilians.

- **HCS: GNU violations**

The High Council of the State (HCS) issued a decision to form committees tasked with following up on “violations” by the GNU, accusing the latter of deviating from the path of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) on 14 May. The HCS accused the GNU of lack of transparency including with regard to oil production, expenses and revenue, not being subject to any accountability or hearing sessions, as well as bypassing the legislative competencies. In addition, the HCS referred to the GNU’s failure to carry out the preliminary procedures for elections, particularly with regard to reviewing the civil registry and the national number system. The decision came during the HCS’ 78th session held at its HQ, chaired by its Head Khaled Al-Meshri.

- **Unconfirmed: HoR to dismiss Bashagha**

Unconfirmed reports allege the House of Representatives (HoR) will dismiss GNS Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha in today’s scheduled session, with Finance Minister Osama Hammad and Deputy Prime Minister Ali Al-Qatrani as possible replacements. Reports allege the dismissal is justified on the basis of corruption and the misuse of public funds allegations attributed to Bashagha.

# OIL & GAS UPDATE

## Terminal Status

Es-Sider	Operational
Ras Lanuf	Operational
Mellitah	Closed for maintenance
Zawiya	Operational
Zueitina	Operational
Marsa Brega	Operational
Marsa Hariga	Operational
Bouri	Operational
Jurf	Operational

### Es-Sider: Stable terminal operations and security atmospherics reported as of 1700hrs LT.

- **Report n°6348:** Mellitah well activated

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced the completion of drilling on well B4-49 operated by Mellitah Oil and Gas Company (MOGCO), with a daily production capacity of 1.8k barrels per day (bpd) on 14 May.

**Analysis/Comment:** No further information.

**Location:** N/A  
**Incident Date:** 14 May  
**Timestamp:** N/A  
**Source:** NOC  
**Veracity:** A  
**Actors:** NOC; Mellitah

**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 Continue to monitor nationwide O&G-related developments.

# VERACITY SCALE

## A – Reliable:

**This information is almost certainly true.** A is Reliable, "No doubt of authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency; has a history of complete reliability". It is reported by one or more credible publications, and if an author is listed we have no reason to suspect them to be biased. The reporting is sourced based on widely available or verifiable information. The information is consistent with everything our team knows about this subject.

## B – Fairly Reliable:

**This information is probably true. This information is possibly true.** B is "Fairly Reliable" for "minor doubt". It is reported one or more mostly credible publications, and if an author is listed we have no reason to suspect them to be biased on this subject. The reporting is primarily based on verifiable information. The information is mostly consistent with everything our team knows about this subject, but may contain new or surprising information given credibility on the strength of the publication or author.

## C – Unreliable:

**This information is probably false.** This information is almost certainly false. "not usually reliable" for "significant doubt," and "unreliable" for "Lacking in authenticity, trustworthiness, and competency; history of invalid information". It appears in social media or an unreliable publication, and may be written by an author that is not known to us or is known to be less reliable. The reporting is thin, largely dependent on anonymous sources or unverifiable accounts from social media or limited access areas. The information is consistent enough with our knowledge of the subject to be possible, but contains sufficient discrepancies to make it seem unlikely. The information is mostly or entirely inconsistent with our knowledge of the subject.



# ACRONYM LIST

AQ	Al-Qaeda
BAM	Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous
BCP	Border Crossing Point
BEN	Benghazi International Airport
BDB	Benghazi Defence Brigade
BPMC	Brega Petroleum Marketing Company
BRSC	Benghazi Revolutionary Shura Council
CBL	Central Bank of Libya
CESF	Constitution and Elections Support Force
CNI	Critical National Infrastructure
CDA	Constitutional Drafting Assembly
DACOCT	Deterrence Apparatus for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism
DDR	Disarmament, demobilising and reintegration
DF	Direct Fire
DMSC	Derna Mujahideen Shura Security Council
GACS	General Administration of Central Support
GASO	General Administration of Security Operations
GECOL	General Electricity Company of Libya
GMMR	Great Man-Made River
GNA	Government of National Accord
GNC	General National Congress
GNS	Government of National Stability
GNU	Government of National Unity
GTUC	Greater Trpoli Union Council
HCS	High Council of State
HNEC	High National Election Commission (HNEC)
HoR	House of Representatives
IDF	Indirect Fire
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IOC	International Oil Company
IS	Islamic State
JMC	Joint Military Commission
LAB	Libyan Audit Bureau
LIFG	Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
LNA	Libyan National Army
LPA	Libyan Political Agreement
LPDF	Libyan Political Dialogue Forum
LROR	Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room
MJI	Mitiga International Airport
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOGC	Mellitah Oil and Gas Complex
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoO	Ministry of Oil

MoT	Ministry of Transportation
MRA	Misrata International Airport
NEE	No Expected Exposure
NIEE	No Immediate Expected Exposure
NFDK	No Further Details Known
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NOC	National Oil Company
NSTR	Nothing Significant To Report
P3+2	France, Germany, Italy, UK, US
PC	Presidential Council
PFG	Petroleum Facilities Guard
RASCO	Ras Lanuf Oil and Gas Processing Company
RPG	Rocket-Propelled Grenade
RTA	Road Traffic Accident
SAF	Small Arms Fire
SSA	Stabilisation Support Agency
SDF	Special Deterrence Force
TPF	Tripoli Protection Force
UNSRSG	United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WOC	Waha Oil Company